

**From:** Josh Litherland  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 2:37pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am writing with respect to my concerns with the settlement reached with Microsoft in the DoJ suit, regarding anticompetitive practices and abuse of monopoly power. I am a professional working in the field of computer network security, and I have witnessed throughout the years a host of situations in which the American public have been victimized by Microsoft's abuse of their overwhelming monopoly. Based on my reading of the proposed settlement, I feel obliged to comment that the remedies put forth thereby will be greatly inadequate to reintroduce competition into the numerous markets currently owned by Microsoft, or to mitigate the tangible damage in terms of both direct financial loss and, indirectly, through an absence of customer service, attention to security and stability and the end-user's rights of fair use.

As an alternative remedy, I favor the suggestion put forth by the honorable judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, that Microsoft be required to provide accurate disclosure of, and support for, their programming interfaces (APIs, see Jackson's Finding of Facts), enabling third parties to develop interoperable systems with Microsoft's own offerings. This would, in my opinion as a computing professional, reintroduce customer choice into the marketplace and encourage merit-based competition, ultimately benefiting consumers through improved value offerings as well as a more rapid pace of innovation, which has been largely stifled during the period of Microsoft's unshakeable dominance.

In short, I wish to cast my voice into the pool of those who, as registered voters and as active participants in the United States economy, insist that Microsoft's transgressions be dealt with fairly, decisively, effectively, and expeditiously.

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